

12 TIPS TO TALKING

The following are some ways in which you can help your child to learn to talk, but be patient! The process is gradual and may seem slow. Words may be unclear and your child may stumble or hesitate. This is normal.

1. Talk to your child when you are playing together.
2. Have fun with nursery rhymes and songs, especially those with actions.
3. Encourage your child to listen to different sounds e.g. aeroplanes, animals, the postman.
4. Gain your child's attention when you want to talk to them.
5. Encourage your child to communicate in any way, not just through words.
6. Increase vocabulary by giving choices e.g. "Do you want orange or blackcurrant?"
7. Talk about things as they happen e.g. unpacking the shopping, having a bath, watching television.
8. Listen carefully and give your child time to finish. Take turns to speak.
9. Give time for your child to communicate or reply. The silence that follows will give your child time to develop ideas about what to say or do while playing.
10. Help your child to use more words by adding to what is said e.g. 'ball' can be expanded to "throw the ball" or "the ball has gone".
11. If your child says something incorrectly, say it back the right way. Do not make your child repeat it e.g. if the child says "home new book" you could say, "Yes, take your new book home."
12. Try and have a special time with your child each day to play with toys and picture books.